

AWARD WINNER



Mrs. Ernest (Madeleine) Jenkins

Second in all of Canada

Mrs. Ernest Jenkins of R.R.#1 Belmont placed first in Ontario and second in Canada for her needlepoint crest at the Women's Institute Canadian Convention which was held June 17 - 21, 1985. The crest was judged on representation of province, creativity, originality and attractiveness. Mrs. Jenkins' 15" by 11" crest consisted of a farm scene at dusk, the W.I. motto "For Home and Country", and additions such as a creek, a tree and trilliums placed on the W.I. crest. The submission took approximately three months to complete.

She has been a member of the Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I. for twenty years, and attends the Canadian Convention which is held every three years whenever possible.

Mrs. Lynn Shelby of Manitoba received first prize across Canada for her entry.

This write-up is from the Dorchester Signpost

J.A.
EQS

The Elgin County Women's Institute sold souvenir Cookbooks at the International Plowing Match in Elgin County on September 17-21, 1985



Helen Widner, left, and Sylvia Cerna examine the recently printed Women's Institute Elgin County souvenir cookbook put out in recognition of the International Plowing Match

to be held in Elgin County in September, 1985. About 3,500 books have sold in the past several weeks.

June 27, 1984

*Just
EJS*

East Elgin District Women's Institute

hears variety of topics

The Elgin East Women's Institute held its 74th district annual meeting Wednesday at the Aylmer Baptist Church.

About 70 ladies from the 10 Women's Institute Branches in Elgin East District and guests from Elgin West and Oxford South attended the day long meeting. Aylmer W.I. and Calton W.I. acted as hostesses.

Following greetings from Rev. Das. Sydney minister of the host church all joined in singing "Let There Be Peace".

Rev. Sydney presented the theme "Year of Peace", in which he said "Sow the seeds of goodness, so evil finds no place, let everyone strive for peace."

Kingsmill Mapleton branch members conducted a memorial service in memory of deceased members. Mrs. Aletha Bradt soloist sang "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" and "Precious Memories" accompanied by Mrs. Barbara Cross at the piano.

Mrs. Jean Phoenix, Calton W.I. welcomed all present and Mrs. Evelyn Hosbal, Springfield W.I. replied, inviting everyone to be guests of Springfield and Kingsmill Mapleton next year at St. John's United Church, Springfield.

A sing song was led by Mrs. Phoenix assisted by Mrs. Alice Langton of North Yarmouth W.I. at the piano.

Mrs. Dorothy Van Patten gave the museum report. She spoke of the seminars - Quilts and Quilting, the Easter egg hunt held for children, the Strawberry Social in conjunction with Jumbo Days.

In memoriam cards are available at the museum. Also anyone wanting Jumbo books, these can be obtained at the museum. Small items for the gift shops would be appreciated. The next general meeting of the museum will be held June 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Mrs. Betty Van Patten, Board Director for Subdivision 22 gave her report. She announced the Women's Institute Hall at the Ontario Agricultural Museum is being refurbished to resemble a "typical W.I. Hall of 1928." Three 1928 sewing machines are needed: Raymond, Eatons or Seamstress. If anyone has a machine please write to the Agricultural Museum at Milton. Mrs. Van Patten told the ladies that Hands Magazine and Federated Women's Institute of Ontario are sponsoring a craft competition. Any Women's Institute member can enter a hand craft article of their own design. All entries should be sent to Hands Magazine Canadian Crafts Project, P.O. Box 340, Station L, Toronto M6E 4Z2 by March 31, 1987.

The Adelaide Hoodless Home continues to need help and support. Mrs. Van Pat-

ten urged the branches to send a donation to the Hoodless Home on their anniversary. W.I. members are encouraged to write letters to their members of Parliament urging the Prime Minister to continue his efforts concerning acid rain problem between Canada and United States of America. The Junior Women's Institute will have "Still More of Everything", volume III available after June 1 at a cost of

\$5.00 plus \$1.75 postage from Mrs. Marg Greig, Gorrie, NOG 1X0 also at London Area Convention. The 90th Anniversary scholarship is to be named Federated Women's Institute of Ontario 90th Anniversary Educational Award. These scholarships will be available to W.I. members who are planning to enter the educational field to update or further their education. Grey Bruce Day at the Erland Lee Museum will be June 2.

Ontario Days June 3,4,5. The Lee Committee will be at Area Convention so members can get their supplies from the Erland Lee Museum.

Mrs. Muriel Lewis, President of London Area reminded the ladies of the Area Convention October 16 and 17 at the Ukrainian Club, Gore Road, London.

Mrs. Jean Palmer Elgin County Rally president announced the Strawberry Social at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum June 18 2-4 p.m. The scholarship presentation will be at 3 p.m. Next Rally meeting June 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the museum.

Mrs. Geraldine Campbell, Public Relations Officer for London Area announced there will be a workshop for District Public Relations Officers at Paynes Mills Hall June 24, registration at 9:30 a.m.

Elgin East W.I. are planning a bus trip to the Royal Winter Fair, November 14th.

There will be a Tweedsmuir History Curator's Workshop at Wallacetown on August 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Carl Fletcher Farm Management Specialist conducted the election of officers as follows: past president - Mrs. Mary Pressey;

president - Mrs. Pauline Lindsay; 1st vice - Mrs. Margaret Wright; secretary - Mrs. Nancy Gardner; assistant - Mrs. Madeline Jenkins; treasurer - Mrs. Jessie Ferguson.

Federation representative - Mrs. Betty Van Patten; alternate - Mrs. Sylvia Cerna; district delegate - Mrs. Pauline Lindsay; alternate - Mrs. Margaret Wright.

Covenors: Agriculture and Canadian Industries - Miss Mildred Owen.

Citizenship and World Affairs - Mrs. Vivian McCaw.

Education and Cultural Activities - Miss Helen Martyn.

Family and Consumer Affairs - Mrs. Helen

Martin.

Resolutions - Mrs. Mary Pressey.

Tweedsmuir History curator - Mrs. Evelyn Hoshal. Assistant - Miss Catherine McDowell.

Representative to Elgin County Pioneer Museum - Mrs. Dorothy Van Patten. Alternate - Mrs. Helen Widner.

Auditors - Mrs. Shirley Bechard, Mrs. Jean Gooding.

Nominating committee - Mrs. Mary Ann Goldthorpe, Mrs. Shirley Bechard, Mrs. Norma Dance, Mrs. Bernice Taylor.

The reports of the Standing Committees were given, also year's activities of the Junior W.I.

The courtesies were given by Mrs. Margaret Wright.

Mrs. Bernice Taylor
P.R.O. Elgin East
District Women's

Institute
631-6570

R.R.8
St. Thomas
N5P 3T3

J.H.

EJS

14—ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL, Wednesday, May 14, 1986

Times-Journal

May 1986

Lifestyles

Leadership program sponsored by WI

Women's Institute members in Ontario continue to develop good programs, encourage leadership and study topics relevant to the concerns of the members. The year 1987 will mark 90 years of continuing progress.

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) sponsored the seventh seminar of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program at Geneva Park, Orillia. Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, provincial president, was given the opportunity to address the program participants and their spouses on the theme Dynamics of Change. She outlined the beginning of the Women's Institute; its growth through the years; the opportunities given to women to develop; involvements today and finally where the organization sees itself in the future.

A provincial Leadership Development Workshop was held with the aim to help members become more effective leaders and more knowledgeable citizens. The opening session was planned to encourage and to instruct women in public speaking and in leading a group. The informative sessions were related to the topics Financial Planning and Water will be we be another Ethiopia? The participants at this workshop are expected to return to their respective areas and develop workshops on like matters.

As a result of a presentation to the FWIO Board meeting by Atomic Energy of Canada, regional meetings are being organized by the Women's Institutes on this topic of today.

Mrs. Nora Barber, FWIO Eastern Region vice president, co-ordinated a workshop on Atomic Energy and Nuclear Fuel Waste Disposal in Perth on April 10. Delegates to this workshop had the opportunity to listen, discuss and question the two speakers from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Mr. Frank Finlay, head of the information centre at Chalk River, provided information on the natural sources and the uses of nuclear energy.

Ms. Jo Hillier, Pinawa Nuclear

Research, Man., presented information on Canada's nuclear fuel waste program. Included was the film Planning for Tomorrow which shows the many facets of research leading to the safe disposal of nuclear waste. Ms. Hillier will also address the same topic at another workshop in the northern region at Rainy River on April 28, and in the southern region at the WI London Area Convention when she will be the guest speaker at their banquet on October 16, in the Ukrainia Hall, London.

Through resolutions, the Women's Institute is continuously working on current needs and concerns. In response to a resolution passed at the annual board meeting in November, a delegation from FWIO has set up meetings with the three Provincial party leaders to gain assurance and a time frame for the positive action they have promised on behalf of farmers. Questions will pertain to finance, marketing and labor regarding agricultural related programs.

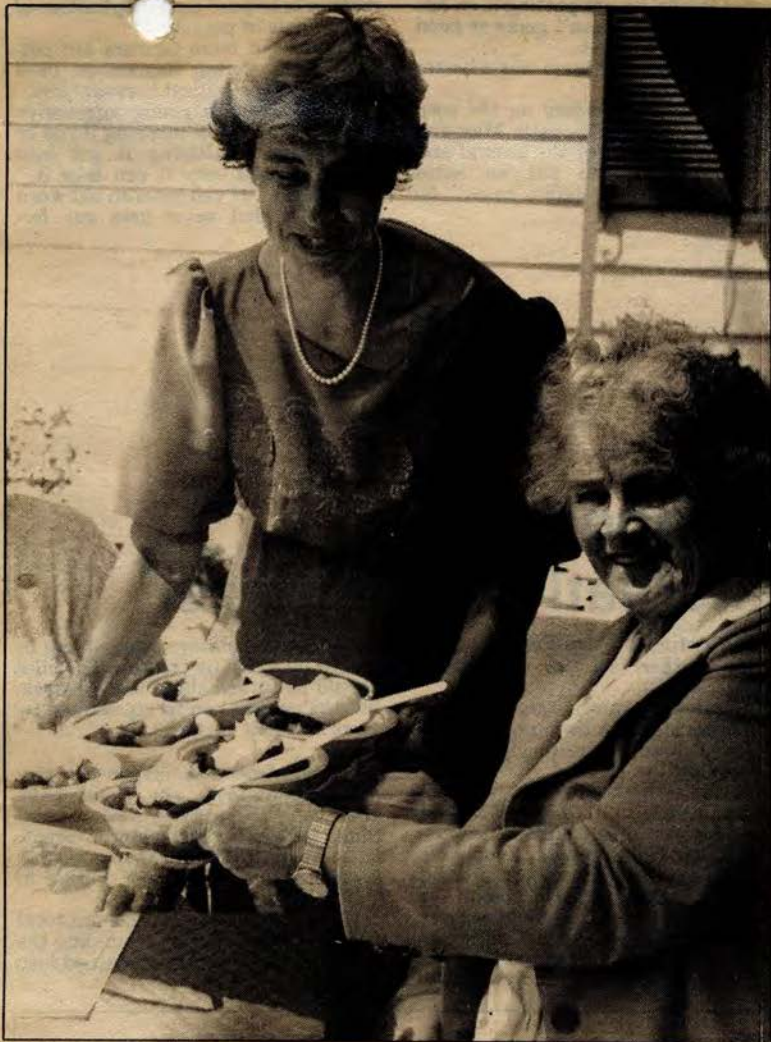
An emergency resolution related to water pollution was sustained at the semi-annual board meeting. In this resolution "FWIO urged Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to give highest priority to the problem of ground and surface water pollution by toxic chemicals; specifically to improve funding for monitoring toxic chemicals in the environment and to develop more effective abatement measures."

The members were also encouraged to write letters urging the prime minister to continue with the efforts concerning acid rain problems between Canada and the United States.

The FWIO Committee on Women's Institutes of the Future presented their findings and the Constitution Committee is now incorporating those sustained recommendations into the constitution and the by-laws. The organization is looking forward to exciting and challenging times in the next decade.

J.F.
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STRAWBERRY SOCIAL



STRAWBERRY DELIGHT -- Elgin Women's Institute and the IODE held a Strawberry Social at the Elgin County Museum on June 18. Madeleine Jenkins, from R.R. 1 Belmont, a Kings Mill-Mapleton Women's Institute member displays a luscious tray of

strawberries and whipped cream to Jessie Ferguson, R.R. 6 St. Thomas East Elgin Women's Institute treasurer. There was a good turnout to the annual event.

(Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)

June 1986



WI SCHOLARSHIP -- Karen Focht, left, accepts the 1986 scholarship from the Elgin Women's Institute during a WI Rally Strawberry Social on June 18 at the Elgin County Museum in St. Thomas. Jean Palmer, right, a WI representative presented the \$200 scholarship. Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josef Focht of R.R. 2 West Lorne. Karen has shown community leadership in 4-H clubs and school clubs. She has completed 24 4-H projects in horse clubs, outdoor living, conservation, financial manage-

ment, tractor, cooking, computer, horticulture, sewing and crafts. Leadership and community work are important factors in receiving this scholarship. Karen has lead 4-H clubs in her community and hopes to continue leading.

Her hobbies include skiing, training animals, bicycling, swimming, dancing and western riding. Karen presently attends the University of Guelph, striving for a degree in Animal and Poultry Science. Her goal is to become a veterinarian.

(Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)

Elgin County October 1986

Caravan a success

By Heather Buchanan

Residents of Elgin County took advantage of sunny weather on Oct. 5 to participate in the third annual County Caravan Car Tour.

The event - sponsored by the Elgin Federation of Agriculture in co-operation with the Women's Institute and Women for Support of Agriculture - visited four farms in central Elgin, as well as numerous points of interest.

Cathy McGregor-Smith, Women for Support of Agriculture public relations representative, said numerous car and truck loads of county residents participated in the day.

Farm stops included Fairlea Seeds, owned by Tom Martin and Diane Dubois, a seed processing plant. The operation is located on the family farm owned by Bob and Jud Martin. The farm is located northeast of St. Thomas.

Fovant Farms Ltd, located west of St. Thomas, is owned in combined partnership by Bruce and Hugh Lyle and their sons, Brian and Sandy. The farm produces cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, wheat and forage crops. This year the family will finish about

500 cattle, 1,800 pigs, 420 acres of corn, 220 acres of soybeans, 90 acres of wheat and 55 acres of forage crops. There will also be between 300 and 500 acres of custom work, either by seeding, harvesting or plowing.

The buffalo herd at the Great Canadian Buffalo Company, located south of St. Thomas, appeared to be bashful on the day of the tour and didn't make an appearance. As a centennial project, in 1967, The McCaig family aquired four buffalo. Since that time the herd has increased to 65 plus.

The final stop for the caravan was at Great Lakes Farms, located south-west of St. Thomas, owned by the Thomas Family. The farm's apple orchard has aabout 9,500 trees including MacIntosh, Cortland, Empire, Delicious, Mutsu, Idared and Spy.

The farm features the Apple Barn which was renovated in 1978 and now promises a rustic atmosphere for enjoying baked goods such as apple strudel, apple pies, muffin, donuts as well as apple cider. There are also tours of the orchard in an old-fashioned horse and wagon.



FAMILY OPERATION -- Donna Lyle (front), Fovant Farms Ltd, explains how high moisture corn is used in the families cattle operation. The home farm of 100 acres was purchased in 1910 by Alex Lyle. Over the course of the next 33 years Alex purchased an additional 450 acres in the Middlemarch and Fingal areas. In 1948 Bruce and Hugh Lyle became part of the operation and a partnership of Alex Lyle and sons was formed. In 1978 Bruce's son, Brian and Hugh's son,

Sandy, purchased 100 acres and constructed a finishing hog barn. Later that same year the two partnerships were combined to form Fovant Farms Ltd. The last purchase of property in 1983 added 40 acres to the operation, along with the 690 acres already owned, and another 270 rented acres. The farm produces cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, wheat and forage crops.

(Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)

Betty & Howard Stover visit Fovant Farms Ltd.

J.A.
EJS

W.I. 90 years. . .**Broadening womens horizons**

For 90 years, the Women's Institute (WI) have provided rural women with an opportunity to broaden the scope of their knowledge and abilities, through the 114 branches in the London Area.

They are a motivating force within rural community, has lead to donations in excessive of \$100,000 to various projects and organizations that need financial assistance in the past year.

The work of the W.I. member does not stop there, they spend hours as leaders in 4-H clubs, adult workshop leaders, helping at senior citizens homes, assisting in museums, helping at local fairs, working on the agriculture in the schools program, or wherever needed for the betterment of their own community and indeed province. A small example of this is the Dr. Monteith Medical Centre in Shedden, which started when the Shedden W.I. approached their local council about the need of such a facility.

Contrary to what some people say, the W.I. in the London Area is continuing to attract new members from the rural community. This, despite the fact the rural population is declining. The younger members are not always able to participate in all the community activities, as they would like. This means that a greater load in doing the community work, falls to the older members. However, the younger members are participating in the meetings, where their personal growth is served by up-to-date speakers on a variety of topics. A small sample of some of the programs in the past year, have been: financial crises in farming; raising and cooking Rainbow trout; The crisis over water on which our means of existence depends; "Synchrude" The Canadian Tar Sands; solar fabrication;

nutrition; P.R.I.D.E.; work of the citizenship court; family law reform act; children's hospital of Western Ontario; and Prince Edward Island.

Each branch plans a varied program, to suit the needs and interests of their members.

Many from the London Area took part in the Free Trade Seminar, organized by F.W.I.O., where the effects of free trade on the rural community were discussed.

The Elgin County W.I. had a very successful Community Outreach Seminar, with a variety of workshops. There will be another one in 1988.

The W.I. in the London Area are working hard on the Butler Project. When this is finished, every school in Ontario will have a copy of the Ross Butler Farm Animal prints, plus copies of all the animals associated with farming. This program comes with information that can work agriculture into all facets of the school curriculum. This committee of W.I. members had a very successful display of Ross Butler's paintings at the London Art Gallery, combined with a display of children's art work, depicting agriculture, combined with animals for the children, and adults, to touch and look at.

Everything is not serious in the W.I. branches. They take part in tours to points of interest, as well as take part in the cultural aspects of Ontario, by attending plays at Blyth, Grand Bend and the Grand Theatre.

The vision put forth 90 years ago is very much alive and active in the London Area. For further information about the Women's Institute or to find a near by branch, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food will be able to help.

Elgin women he about world conference

About 100 ladies attended the Elgin County Women's Institute rally program, held at Southwold Public School recently, beginning with a dessert luncheon and tea or coffee.

Mrs. Brenda Silcox led the ladies in a lively sing song of Irish tunes, followed by a very interesting program presented by Mrs. Shirley Johnston. Mrs. Gertrude Liepman, Mrs. Wilma McAdam, Mrs. Mary Gow, Mrs. Jessie Ferguson and Mrs. Lenore Butler, who attended the 18th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World

(A.C.W.W.) held in Killarney, Ireland this past June.

The ladies had on display snapshots, post cards and souvenirs of Ireland and the conference and a slide presentation by Mrs. Johnston.

The ladies were introduced by Mrs. Geraldine Campbell and thanked by Mrs. Sylvia Cerna.

Mrs. Jean Palmer president of the Rally thanked those who participated in the County Caravan.

A very enjoyable evening came to a close by all repeating the Mary Stewart Collect.

Oct., 1986

J.H.
98

Elgin Safety Poster Winners

Voice of the Elgin Farmer Nov. 12, 1986

The presentation of safety poster awards took place at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. These awards are for the best posters from among all the first prize winners at the four fairs in Elgin County.

Rally Chairman, Jean Palmer, presented the first prize winners of each category. Kindergarten-Heather Hewitt, Southwold School; Grade 1 and 2-Colleen Bobier, Dutton Dunwich; Grade 3 and 4-Melissa Hoeree, Southwold; Grade 5 and 6-Colleen Bartly- South Dorchester school



POSTER WINNERS -- The Elgin Women's Institute and the Elgin Farm Safety Association presented awards Oct. 25 to youngsters in elementary school for their farm safety posters. Winners are Colleen Barley (front row left), 11, RR 1, Belmont; Heather Hewitt, 6, RR 7, St. Thomas; and Ryan McGahan, 12, Rodney. Mid-

dle row: Sandy Claessens (left), 6, RR 6, Aylmer; Colleen Bobier, 8, Wallacetown; Melissa Hoeree, 9, RR 3, Iona; and Melissa Caves, 8, Orwell. Back row: Jean Palmer (left), Chairman of Rally Elgin Women's Institute; and Shirley Bechard, Elgin Farms Safety Association secretary. (Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)

J. A.
EJS
12.11.86

-AYLMER EXPRESS—Wed., March 1, 1989



Women's Institute officers and members gathered at Springfield United Church Wednesday, February 22 for the annual Winter Picnic hosted by Elgin East District. Those present included front row, from left: Betty Walther, provincial board director, Federated Institute of Ontario; Laurine McIn-

tosh, London Area president; Janet Hiepleh, past president Federated Women's Institute of Ontario; back row Sally McIrtyre, president Elgin West; Pauline Lindsay, president Elgin East; and Florence Buchner district president, Oxford South.

The Women's Institute



For Home and Country

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Centennial Commemorative Plate Competition

The objective of this competition is to encourage Ontario Women's Institute members to submit entries for the design on the face of the Women's Institute Centennial Commemorative Plate.

Rules and Regulations:

1. This is open to members of the Ontario Women's Institute.
2. The design is to be the work of an individual member.
3. The design is to be the competitor's own design in colour. (No photographs).
4. The coloured design is to be on an 18" x 18" good quality paper. The design will be reduced to fit a 9¼ inch plate. **DO NOT BEND OR FOLD THE PAPER ON WHICH THE ENTRY IS DRAWN.** Please enclose the entry between cardboard to prevent damage.
5. The committee reserves the right to consult with the artist prior to production regarding any changes that are deemed necessary.
6. The name, address and signature of the entrant as well as her W.I. Branch, District and Area are to be placed in a **SEALED ENVELOPE** and attached **SECURELY** to the entry.
7. All submissions to become the property of FWIO, will not be returned and may be used by F.W.I.O. at their discretion. The winner will be required in writing to forfeit all property rights, ownership and copyrights of the winning design.
8. Judges will be procured by the Commemorative Plate Committee and their decision shall be final.
9. Ownership of Plate #1 will be retained by the F.W.I.O.

Prizes:

First prize will be \$100.00 plus Plate #2.
Four honourable mention awards of \$25.00 each will also be given.
(prizes donated by London Area Women's Institute)

Committee Members:

Chairman: Janet Hiepleh, R.R. 2, Springfield, Ontario N0L 2J0
Recording Secretary: Grace Campbell, R.R. 1, Iona Station, Ontario N0L 1P0
Corresponding Secretary: Jean Ratcliffe, R.R. 1, St. Marys, Ontario NOM 2V0

To Enter:

**Please detach the entry form below and place in a sealed envelope.
Fasten the sealed envelope securely to the back of your entry.**

Should your entry require any explanations please write your remarks on a separate piece of paper and fasten it to the front of your design so that it may be read.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS JULY 31, 1992

Mail to: Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, R.R. 2, Springfield, Ontario N0L 2J0

(and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for acknowledgement of receipt of your entry)

ENTRY FORM FOR FWIO CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Women's Institute Branch: _____

District: _____ Area: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

J.H.

18—FARMING TODAY Monday, May 6, 1991

Women's Institute honored by recycling group

The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) was recently honored for its contribution to waste management.

The FWIO received the "Outstanding Organization, Ontario Waste Management Award" from the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO).

The award, handed out last month in Toronto, states: "Through education, demonstration, and advocacy, FWIO, in its commitment to advance reduction, reuse and recycling throughout the province of Ontario, is successfully affecting behavior. In recognition of this en-

vironmental leadership and to express the appreciation of the members of the Recycling Council of Ontario this award is presented to FWIO by John Birchall, RCO chairman."

Wed., May 15, 1991—AYLMER EXPRESS

GARAGE & YARD SALES

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
County Road 52 between
Highways 73 and 74 sponsored
by Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's
Institute.

15p

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FARMING TODAY Monday, June 3, 1991— 7

They've Made A Big Difference

Pasteurized milk, wrapped bread among Institute's accomplishments

by SUSAN McCONNELL
Staff Writer

A lot of things we take for granted were once the rallying cry of the Women's Institute.

To its credit, the W.I. was responsible for having bread wrapped, the painting of white lines on highways, use of fluorescent paint on railway cars and stop signs at crossings, labelling of garments, poultry grading, having staples abolished on packaged foods, banning sales of mineral-based detergents, dental and medical

inspections in schools, requiring persons handling food to have T.B. tests, and making it mandatory for traffic to stop when a school bus is picking up or discharging passengers.

Perhaps the most famous project the W.I.-spearheaded was pasteurization of milk. The Institute also lists sex education in school and making the legal marriage age 16 with parents' consent (1937) as projects.

W.I. projects are a mirror of the times. In 1985 they pushed, among other issues, public washroom cubicles for the hand-

icapped, enforcement of handicapped parking regulations, and safety precautions for manure-holding tanks; in 1986 they rallied for all pop and alcoholic beverages to be refundable and the banning of liquor commercials on Ontario television; in 1987 they took on three-point type rear seat belts and the inclusion of houseworkers in the Canada Pension Plan; the following year there was testing of a new pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine, mandatory food labelling in restaurants, catering and fast food outlets, unscheduled government inspections of nursing homes; in 1989 there was more funding for health care support persons and

for agencies helping abused children, drastic reduction of packaging and a policy on religious education in public schools.

In the 1990s, the group turned its attention to the environment — not a new topic of concern for the Institute which had already pushed reduction of styrofoam and plastic packaging, reduction of packaging, reduction of acid rain and making recycling mandatory in Canada.

Work performed by the 20,000 Ontario members in over 1,000 branches was valued at \$6 million and estimated volunteer man houses in one year were 492,168.

8-21

28.

Keeping History Alive

WI museum tells story of group's development

by JILL CLEAVER
Staff Writer

STONEY CREEK — Before assuming her new duties as curator of the Erland Lee Museum Home, Jennifer Dunkerson had to do her homework.

Having grown up in the Toronto area, she had little contact with the rural-based Women's Institute (WI) which operates the museum.



Jennifer Dunkerson is the new curator of the Erland Lee Museum Home in Stoney Creek. Dressed in a period costume, she is shown in front of the museum. Staff photo

"They have always been working for what they believe in and that's what I admire most."

So the University of Waterloo student set out to learn as much as possible about the WI.

During her extensive research, she became fascinated with the WI's history, which began in 1897 when about 100 rural women gathered to discuss ways of improving their homemaking and child care skills.

Since then, WI has grown to a world-wide organization with some 20,000 members in Ontario and 43,000 in Canada.

While poring through the group's history, Dunkerson developed a real admiration for the

WI's values.

"They have always been working for what they believe in and that's what I admire most," she said.

Dunkerson said the WI has great strength and commitment to its work and has lasted so long "because it has been a place where women can get together socially and stand up and speak out about what they believe in."

The organization was, and still is, non-denominational and has no political attachments.

Dunkerson says the museum, former home of WI co-founders Janet and Erland Lee, is the perfect focal point for tracing the history of both the WI and Ontario.

The home has been in the Lee family since 1801 and reflects various stages of development, says Dunkerson.

Located on Ridge Road in Stoney Creek, it has been owned and operated by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario since 1972.

Dunkerson, who began her

new job April 15, is determined to keep the rich WI history alive.

The Brantford resident, currently working on her Masters in applied history, is particularly interested in taking history and applying it to public institutions like museums.

And as curator she'll not only be able to implement new plans at the museum, but also gain the practical experience needed to complete her degree.

One of her main goals is to develop a more effective educational program at the museum. This, she hopes, will give school children a chance to develop an interest in heritage and history.

Dunkerson says the WI museum is a perfect place to establish such a connection. The museum comes complete with many historical artifacts reflecting both the history of WI and Ontario.

Dunkerson would like to see a more professional approach at the museum as well as additional funds to ensure this professionalism is maintained.

"It's the little things" that can make a real difference in the

museum's look, she said.

So far the museum committee, consisting of WI volunteers, has been open to Dunkerson's new ideas.

While her tenure as curator is indefinite, Dunkerson is hoping to maintain a connection with the WI in the future.

J. St.

LKS
N. J. K. H. W.

Book's claims dispu
Dear Editor

Deadly milk provided impetus

Death from a glass of milk? It's hard to imagine that happening today, but back in the late 1800s it was a different story. Milk wasn't pasteurized back then so there wasn't any protection from contaminated milk.

This became painfully clear to Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton,

Ont. when her 14-month-old baby son died from drinking contaminated milk.

The unfortunate tragedy became the motivation for Hoodless as she campaigned for more education for rural women.

One of her speaking engagements was in autumn 1896 at the Ontario Agricultural

College in Guelph where she addressed the Farmers' Experimental Union.

In attendance was Erland Lee, a school teacher, clerk of Saltfleet Township and farm activist. He was so inspired by her address that he set out to establish a new educational organization for women.



INSIDE

By STEVE

Managing Editor

reflect the unique needs of rural families. (See page 3).

Jennifer Dunkerson didn't know a lot about WI until recently, but after some extensive research, she's now well-versed in WI history.

Of course, as the new curator of the WI's Erland Lee Museum Home in Stoney Creek, she's expected to have WI history at her fingertips. (See page 5).



Women's Institute logo.

His first step was to invite Hoodless to speak at Ladies' Night at the Saltfleet Farmers' Institute. The following week, Erland and his wife Janet were travelling the backroads of the township by horse and buggy encouraging women to attend a meeting at Squires' Hall in Stoney Creek.

The meeting on Feb. 19, 1897 attracted 101 women and proved to be the WI's starting point.

The WI now has members throughout the world, including some 20,000 in Ontario and 43,000 in Canada.

While the group's initial thrust of educating rural women has remained, its scope has widened to include such issues as the environment and highway safety.

One of its more recent projects was rural day care. WI is currently calling for changes to rural day care policy to

Chimo
All dogs
are
full
of love,
but a wet dog
is the
lovingest.

Mostly happenings at the farm

J. H.